

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8, 15, and 17-18 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-18 are pending and under consideration. Support for the amended claims can be found at page 3, lines 1-12 of the specification.

This amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance, and entry therefore is respectfully requested. In the alternative, entry of this amendment is requested as placing the application in better condition for appeal by, at least, reducing the number of issues outstanding.

Entry of Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

The Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response because the amendment does not significantly alter the scope of the claims and places the application at least into a better form for purposes of appeal and because the Examiner has cited a new reference in rejecting the claims. No new features or new issues are being raised.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures (M.P.E.P.) sets forth in Section 714.12 that “any amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered.” Moreover, Section 714.13 sets forth that “the Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified.” The M.P.E.P. further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, at pages 2-5, claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10-13, and 15-18 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Holland (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,742).

Holland does not discuss or suggest:

an account information input/output section that obtains first purchase information concerning items selected by a first person from an item list provided by an online shopping service via a network, the items being functionally related to one another,

as recited in amended claim 1. In other words, the invention of claim 1 provides that the items that are identified by the first purchase information are items that are functionally related to one another. For example, if the second person (end user) wishes to purchase an entire personal

computer system, the invention of claim 1 provides that the first purchase information identifies items of the personal computer system, such as a computer and a printer, that are compatible with each other. In this manner, the purchase of such items is made more efficient. Holland, as relied upon by the Examiner, does not provide for specifying items that are functionally related. Therefore, Holland fails to disclose obtaining first purchase information concerning items selected by a first person from an item list provided by an online shopping service via a network, wherein the items are functionally related to one another.

Since Holland does not discuss or suggest all of the features of claim 1, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Holland. Accordingly, withdrawal of this § 102(e) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-6 and 16 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, and include all the features of claim 1, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. Therefore, claims 3-6 and 16 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 102(b) rejections is respectfully requested.

Holland does not discuss or suggest:

obtaining first purchase information concerning items selected by a first person from an item list provided by an online shopping service via a network, the items being functionally related to one another,

as recited in claims 8 and 15. Therefore, claims 8 and 15 patentably distinguish over Holland. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 102(e) rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-13 depend either directly or indirectly from amended claim 8, and include all the features of claim 8, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. Therefore, claims 10-13 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 102(e) rejections is respectfully requested.

Holland does not discuss or suggest:

an account information input/output section that obtains first purchase information concerning items selected by a first person from an item list provided by an online shopping service via a network, the items being functionally related to one another,

as recited in amended claim 17. Therefore, claim 17 patentably distinguishes over Holland. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection is respectfully requested.

Holland does not discuss or suggest:

storing first purchase information concerning items selected by a first person from an item list provided by an online shopping service via a network, the items being functionally related to one another,

as recited in amended claim 18. Therefore, claim 18 patentably distinguishes over Holland. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, at page 5, claims 7 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holland.

As discussed above, Holland does not discuss or suggest all of the features of claim 1. Claim 7 depends indirectly from claim 1 and includes all the features of claim 1, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the references relied upon. Therefore, claim 7 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

As discussed above, Holland does not discuss or suggest all of the features of claim 8. Claim 14 depends indirectly from claim 8 and includes all the features of claim 8, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the references relied upon. Therefore, claim 14 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

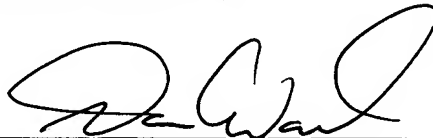
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 5-9-08

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